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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the international drug control treaties

Australia: draft resolution

Promoting international cooperation in responding to synthetic drugs, including methamphetamine and new psychoactive substances

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Concerned that synthetic drugs, including methamphetamine and new psychoactive substances, continue to pose risks to public health and safety,

Acknowledging the dynamic and fast-paced nature of the market for synthetic drugs, including methamphetamine and new psychoactive substances,

Deeply concerned about reports of the increased purity and availability of methamphetamine and the continuing use of and trade in new psychoactive substances, such as synthetic cannabinoids, 4-methyl-methcathinone (also known as mephedrone), methylenedioxypyrovalerone, other cathinones and phenethylamines, that have effects similar to those of internationally controlled drugs,

Concerned about the potential opportunities for transnational organized criminal groups to exploit the market for these substances,

Noting that a number of new psychoactive substances that have already been identified as posing serious risks to public health are subject to national control within certain Member States,

Noting also that the identification and control of emerging new psychoactive substances can pose challenges to effective health and law enforcement regulation,

Recalling its resolution 43/10 of 15 March 2000, on the promotion of regional and international cooperation in the fight against the illicit manufacture, trafficking and consumption of synthetic drugs, in particular amphetamine-type stimulants,

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Recalling also its resolution 48/1 of 11 March 2005, on promoting the sharing of information on emerging trends in the abuse of and trafficking in substances not controlled under the international drug control conventions,

Recalling further its resolution 55/1 of 16 March 2012, on promoting international cooperation in responding to the challenges posed by new psychoactive substances,

Recalling the functions mandated to the World Health Organization, under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol[1] and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[2] to provide technical recommendations to the Commission with regard to assessing the potential liability for abuse and ill effects of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Acknowledging the ongoing success of the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in improving understanding of the synthetic drug problem through monitoring the illicit manufacture, use of and trafficking in synthetic drugs, including methamphetamine and emerging synthetic substances, and noting the progress in implementation of that approach,

Acknowledging also the work of States members of the European Union, together with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, in developing effective processes for addressing new psychoactive substances, including an early warning system and risk assessment methodologies,

1. *Encourages* Member States to continue to monitor emerging trends in the composition, production and distribution, for example through the Internet, of synthetic drugs, including methamphetamine and new psychoactive substances, as well as patterns of use of those substances within their own national borders;

2. *Urges* Member States to continue to share that information, in particular with regard to patterns of use, risks to public health, forensic data and regulation of synthetic drugs, including methamphetamine and new psychoactive substances, with other Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

3. *Encourages* Member States, based on the information on patterns of use and risks to the public, to continue to adopt appropriate measures aimed at reducing demand;

4. *Also encourages* Member States to develop and share treatment models that are relevant to the unique health and psychological problems associated with methamphetamine use;

5. *Further encourages* Member States to take measures to continue to tackle the issue of synthetic drugs, including methamphetamine and new psychoactive substances, in particular by advancing the monitoring of such substances by improving research, analysis and forensic capability in order to share that information with other Member States;

6. *Encourages* Member States to continue to consider a wide variety of evidence-based control measures to tackle the emergence of new psychoactive

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

substances, including the use of consumer protection, legislation regarding medicines and legislation regarding hazardous substances;

7. *Urges* Member States, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, to further cooperate, in accordance with national law, in judicial and law enforcement activities to tackle the trade in and distribution and manufacture of those new psychoactive substances which have already been identified as posing risks to public health and which are subject to control within certain Member States;

8. *Calls on* Member States, where appropriate, to continue to pursue cooperative measures in addressing the potential public health risks from the use of those substances, and to share information and expertise with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization on effective responses;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to work with the World Health Organization, pursuant to article 3 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol[1] and article 2 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[2] towards resuming the provision of scheduling recommendations to the Commission;

10. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance the collection of information on emerging new psychoactive substances, including through existing mechanisms such as the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to share that information, where appropriate, with relevant international organizations and international cooperation frameworks, including the International Narcotics Control Board, the World Health Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization and the World Customs Organization;

12. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations, including the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, to continue to share information on new psychoactive substances;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission, at its fifty-ninth session, on progress made with respect to the activities described in the present resolution.